

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Roy, and I am a Yale University student. I immigrated to the United States with my family at the age of three.

I stand in support of HB 6616 and the effort to expand access to HUSKY regardless of immigration status and age. If Connecticut wants a future that includes healthy families and a stable, thriving, and growing workforce that is ready to meet the needs of our future, Connecticut must ensure that these individuals have access to health coverage. Expanding access to HUSKY is an important step toward this future.

Growing up in the United States as an immigrant, I witnessed firsthand the discrimination and xenophobia my parents faced at their workplace, DMV, and bank. I could not even imagine what it must be like for undocumented immigrants to endure similar challenges. More than any other challenge, health care is absolutely essential. It is a human right. It is a complete slap in the face to deny this right to anyone residing in our state. I support this bill for the sake of every undocumented immigrant!

Currently, despite paying over half a billion dollars in taxes annually, undocumented immigrants are barred from accessing the very programs their taxes fund, like HUSKY. As a result, 58% of the 113,000 undocumented immigrants in Connecticut are uninsured, a vast number in comparison to the 5.9% uninsured rate all across Connecticut. This is a clear disparity in coverage and a health equity issue.

There is overwhelming evidence that increasing access to healthcare would greatly improve health outcomes in all aspects: fewer premature deaths, improvements in overall self-reported care, improved mental health and lower stress, and better management of chronic conditions. According to the National Commission on Prevention Policies, 100,000 deaths could be averted each year just by improving the delivery of five preventive services.

I support expanding HUSKY to all regardless of age and immigration status, and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. I would highly appreciate if this bill leaves committee and gets passed as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time,
Roy